

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Macedonia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Democracy and Governance Reform
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	165-0200
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$15,845,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$176,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$12,434,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2002
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2005

**Summary:** USAID's democracy and governance program focuses on: 1) increasing citizens' participation in political and social decision-making, 2) enhancing adherence to the rule of law, 3) improving the effectiveness and accountability of local government, and 4) increasing confidence in government institutions and political processes.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Civil society strengthening (\$6,500,000 AEEB). Through technical assistance, grants, and training, USAID will strengthen the organizational capacity of local civil society organizations, including trade unions, to take an active role in improving the lives of Macedonian citizens and to better advocate for their interests. USAID will continue improving a legal framework that supports the growth and financial viability of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Technical assistance and grants will be provided to help communities address quality of life and economic development issues. The USAID media program will continue to upgrade the professional skills of journalists, strengthen three media associations to serve the interests of the media profession, and improve the competitiveness and efficiency of media enterprises. USAID will work with the Ministry of Education to implement and sustain a civic education program in elementary schools, and continue supporting a children's television series designed to promote intercultural understanding and conflict prevention. The prime implementers are the Institute For Sustainable Communities, International Center For Non-For-Profit Law (ICNL), Louis Berger Group, American Center For International Labor Solidarity (ACILS), Catholic Relief Services, International Research And Exchanges Board (IREX), and Search For Common Ground.

Improving respect and implementation of laws (\$5,000,000 AEEB). USAID will continue providing technical assistance and grants to seven legal associations and institutions to develop an independent, well-trained, and respected judiciary, a skilled and knowledgeable legal profession, and a public informed about its legal rights. Assistance will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the courts by introducing changes to the current laws to streamline the adjudication process, by providing training to improve the quality of judicial decision-making and the managerial skills of court personnel, and introducing organizational and procedural reforms. The prime implementers are the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), and DPK Consulting.

Building the capacity of local government (\$2,345,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to support the legislative reforms required to implement decentralization. Municipal associations will receive assistance to strengthen their ability to represent the interests of local government and play a key role in decentralization. Technical assistance and training will be provided so local government can use effectively their newly devolved authorities and resources, and to increase citizen participation in municipal decision-making. Assistance and grants will be provided to municipalities to address environmental issues. The contractor is Development Alternatives, Inc. (prime).

Increasing trust in political institutions and processes (\$2,000,000 AEEB). USAID will provide technical assistance to the new Parliament to enhance its role in the legislative process and its ability to receive, represent, and respond to citizens' interests and preferences in decision-making. In anticipation of the 2004 local and presidential elections, technical assistance will be provided to build the capacity of the newly-established permanent Secretariat for Election Administration and amend the legal framework for elections. Technical assistance and grants will promote internal political party reform by strengthening internal democratic practices and increasing responsiveness to constituents and members. To build public confidence in the results of the population census, USAID technical assistance will continue to develop the State Statistical Office's ability to carry out the census in accordance with international standards. The prime implementers are the International Foundation For Electoral Systems (IFES), National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), and the U.S. Census Bureau.

**FY 2004 Program:**

Civil society strengthening (\$4,512,000 AEEB). USAID will design an activity to address the needs of civil society based on the lessons learned from the Community Self Help Initiative and previous non-governmental organization strengthening activities. Assistance to labor unions and the media will continue. USAID will focus on institutionalizing the civic education program nation-wide and making it self-sustainable. The prime implementers are Institute for Sustainable Communities, Louis Berger Group, ACILS, and IREX.

Improving respect and implementation of laws (\$2,300,000 AEEB). Assistance in improving court efficiency will intensify by replicating the court reforms accomplished in six pilot courts throughout the country. The prime implementers are ABA/CEELI and DPK Consulting.

Building the capacity of local government (\$3,012,000 AEEB). The Local Government Program will continue its work on the decentralization process, more specifically on the implementation of the Law on Local Self Government as well as the passage and implementation of the Law on Local Government Financing. Consequently, assistance will focus on building local governments' capability to exercise newly-devolved responsibilities. Grants to communities for environmental activities will continue as well. The implementer is Development Alternatives, Inc. (prime).

Increasing trust in political institutions and processes (\$2,610,000 AEEB). Parliamentary assistance will continue to assist Members of Parliament with representing citizens from their electoral districts. Election support will intensify in the period up to the 2004 local and presidential elections, addressing voter and poll worker education and direct work with the State Election Commission. Political party assistance will provide assistance and training to young and promising leaders. The prime implementers are IFES, NDI, and IRI.

**Performance and Results:** USAID assistance has been instrumental in the implementation of the Framework Agreement, especially for the preparation of the amended Law on Local Self-Government that sets the basis for decentralization. The revitalized Mayors' Association has been educating its members about the decentralization process and the pending Law on Local Government Financing. USAID assistance was also a critical factor in the successful outcome of the September 15, 2002 parliamentary elections. It resulted in the adoption of new ballot security provisions, improvement and standardization of election administration and operation, training of over 17,000 poll workers, voter knowledge about changes in procedure and their rights as voters, monitoring by domestic and international observers, political parties adopting a code of conduct, and development of political party platforms grounded in the issues of importance to voters. Civil society organizations, including trade unions, played an active role in the elections by encouraging citizens to inform themselves of the issues and to vote, and by monitoring the conduct of the political parties and election officials. At the grassroots level, community activities successfully addressed local economic development and quality of life improvements for over 200,000 direct beneficiaries, 10% of Macedonia's population. During the strategy period, USAID expects its democracy and governance program to have increased citizen participation in political activities from 19% to 30% and in civil society organizations from 17% to over 25%; improve public confidence in receiving equal treatment in court procedures from 38% to 45%; and increase public trust of local government from 42% to 55%.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Macedonia

165-0200 Democracy and Governance Reform	<b>AEEB</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	
Obligations	12,594
Expenditures	868
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>	
Obligations	12,594
Expenditures	868
Unliquidated	11,726
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	176
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>	
Obligations	15,845
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>	
Obligations	16,021
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>	
Obligations	12,434
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	41,049